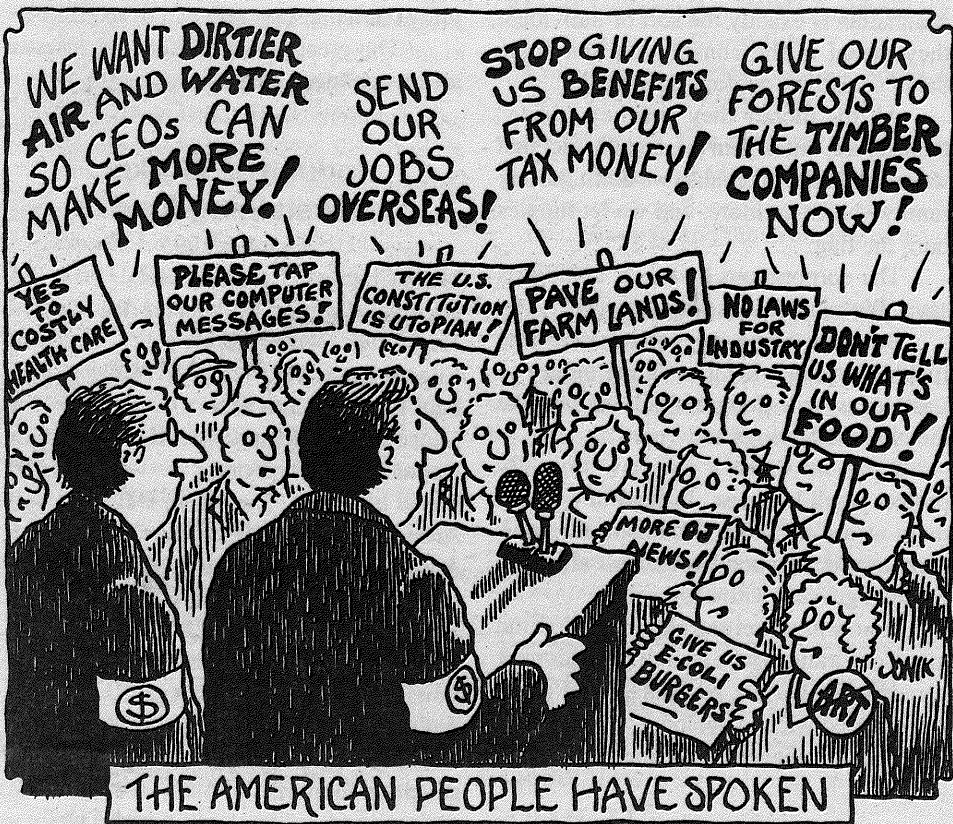


Industrial Worker

DECEMBER 1995 #1586, vol. 92 no. 12 \$1.00/50 p



EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION



Guard Changes at AFL

Delegates to the AFL-CIO's biannual convention have ousted incumbent Tom Donahue and replaced him with Service Employees president John Sweeney. Sweeney promised a more aggressive, confrontational approach to labor struggles, urging delegates to vote for him "if you are tired of being treated like so much road kill on the highway of American life." "We must first organize despite the law if we are ever to organize with the law," Sweeney said, pledging to dramatically expand AFL-CIO organizing efforts.

The *New York Times* headlined its account "Militant Is Elected Head of A.F.L.-C.I.O., Signalling Sharp Turn for Labor Movement." Any worker has to hope it's right. But there's reason to doubt how sharp the turn will be. Sweeney never worked a day in the low-paid service sector jobs held by most of his 1.1 million members. Instead, he was hired by SEIU Local 32B from the staff of the ILGWU. Who hired him? Tom Donahue. Sweeney rose through the Local 32B staff for 20 years, before winning the SEIU presidency in 1980.

Sweeney's record in SEIU is hardly one to inspire confidence in him as a force for change. After 15 years as SEIU president, Sweeney pulled in some \$210,000 a year plus expenses, even though many of his members make less than \$15,000 a year. Sweeney pulled in another \$10,000 in fees from Local 32B (down from \$79,000 a few years ago). In a mutual back-scratching deal, Sweeney arranged for the SEIU to pay Local 32B president Gus Bevona \$73,241 a year to supplement his meager salary of \$281,921 (New York City's an expensive town, after all). The average member makes about a tenth that much.

However, Bevona may need the money. *Labor Notes* reports that he's just been ordered to pay \$100,000 to a rank-and-file member who ran against him in 1992. A jury ruled that Bevona misused union funds and violated the rights of janitor Carlos Gurzman by hiring a private detective agency to spy on and intimidate the dissident.

Meanwhile, SEIU's Committee on the Future has issued a report noting that half of SEIU members believe their local is ineffective. Most members "don't believe any large institution looks out for them. And they think SEIU is just another big institution." And the report called for more vigorous organizing, noting that SEIU was organizing only about a third of the members each year it needed in order to maintain its share of the industries it represents. Much of SEIU's membership growth has come not from organizing, but from affiliating formerly independent unions.

Nor is SEIU known for encouraging union solidarity. When teachers struck the Los Angeles public schools in 1989, John Sweeney and SEIU Local 99 Secretary-Treasurer Walter Backstrom ordered school bus drivers to scab. When several drivers honored the picket lines, these "union" officials joined with the School Board, issuing threats that any driver who honored picket lines would face disciplinary action and, if found guilty of repeated solidarity, fired. Fed up with undemocratic SEIU rule, the drivers organized a reform caucus and, after officials connived with the school district to have activists written up and fired, petitioned for an independent union.

SEIU 99's 1991-94 contract allowed the school board to lay off hundreds of

continued on page 7

'Green' Boss Profits Off Chiapas Misery

Ever since the modern Zapatista rebellion began in southern Mexico, almost everyone has become familiar with where Chiapas is on the global map. We all know about "Sub-commandante Marcos," the EZLN and the Lacandonian Jungle. However, most of us don't know that Chiapas is also one of the world's most famous coffee producing and exporting regions. Not much coffee is produced in Chiapas compared to other major growing areas. But what is produced is in high demand. The coffee cultivated in the Soconusco area is the most expensive money can buy.

Working conditions for the producers of this coffee are terrible. Most of these workers are indigenous people, many refugees from neighboring Guatemala. Minimum wages, maximum working hours, child labor, miserable food and barracks-like housing are the norm. Control is exercised by the police and the bosses' private army of killers known as the "guardias blancas." Guatemalans refugees are threatened with expulsion if they don't obey the bosses' imposed authority.

Among these very large coffee plantations (fincas) are many which are managed/owned by bosses who come from Germany. One of them, Finca Irlanda, came to the attention of the Free Workers' Union (FAU)

some months ago. Finca Irlanda is an exception among the coffee-fincas as Finca Irlanda coffee has been produced organically since 1928. This coffee is sold in hundreds of German health food stores under the label "Fair Trade." It is also sold in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden. In the USA, Finca Irlanda is sold as Cafe Altura. And this is where the story begins.

We found out about Finca Irlanda coffee, when members of the FAU health food branch read an interview with a member of the rebelling forces about the working conditions at these plantations/fincas. He said that the conditions at Irlanda were only slightly better than those at the "normal" capitalist bloodsucking fincas. Nevertheless, Finca Irlanda coffee is sold as "Fair Trade" in Germany and it is sold at a handsome price to those who believe that they are somehow helping the producers by buying it, as opposed to a regular capitalist brand. "Where the hell," we thought, "is all that money going?"

Our investigations showed that the male campesino producers are paid only the Mexican minimum wage—\$2.50 per day. Women workers got even less. Just to give you the flavor of the situation; it was only last year that workers occupied various fincas, *continued on page 8*

U.S. Bee Workers Strike Dutch Koppert Biological Systems

On October 30, bee production workers for Koppert Biological Systems in Ann Arbor, Michigan, walked out and formed a picket line. Although health and safety concerns, wages and benefits are the main issue for bargaining, Koppert's U.S. manager, Willem Verkerk, has refused to recognize the union (FLOC). On Oct. 20, Baldemar Velasquez, FLOC's president, received a fax from the general manager of the Koppert conglomerate in the Netherlands telling the agricultural workers union to: "leave our company at rest."

KOPPERT Biological Systems USA, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Koppert International based in Holland, has refused to recognize the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, which represents their production workers.

FLOC represents over 6,000 migrant field workers in agriculture in Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina, is most known for its seven-year boycott of Campbell's Soup, which ended in the historic three-party agreements still in force in Ohio and Michigan.

On September 28, after two months of

foot dragging, the manager refused in writing to recognize FLOC as the bargaining agent for these workers. On October 20, after FLOC presented a draft agreement to Willem Verkerk, and three days before a scheduled meeting between himself and Baldemar Velasquez, the parent company in Holland said leave us alone.

Koppert is classed as an agricultural employer since they produce bees for agricultural purposes. In June 1995 workers contacted FLOC after failing to achieve improvements in working conditions and wages they sought. Manager Verkerk's response to them was to take it or leave it, you don't have to work here. Recently Verkerk told the workers that if they strike they would be replaced by scabs.

The workers told FLOC that Koppert in Holland employs mainly Turkish immigrant workers in their production, their California operation employs mainly Mexicans. In Ann Arbor they apparently considered University of Michigan graduates (4 of the 5 workers) as an easily exploitable work force.

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In This Issue...

Appeal to Fishing Workers

Fired for Speed-Up Fight

Union Scabbing Must Stop

Industrial Worker On-Line

The Industrial Worker is now available via world wide web site. Our web site includes the current issue and an archive going back to October 1995. It can be found at: <http://iww.org/~iww/>



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Union Bureaucrats Put On Militant Stance

It looks like the AFL-CIO and other unions are talking about militancy now... but will it lead to anything substantial? So long as unions are structured based on a bureaucratic hierarchy, and saddled with a legacy of Gompers capitulation to capitalism and bosses to maintain "respectability," we cannot expect a whole lot of change from them. However, this could mark the *potential* for greater awareness and democratic alternatives for workers organizing themselves in the workplace. It's up to those who seek change to fight for it, and not rely on union "leaders" to show them the way.

The change of union temperament has little to do with supposed benevolent intentions in union "leadership," and everything to do with increased hardships for US workers and their greater demands for economic democracy in the workplace. What are "higher wages" when one has no freedom? A compromise, that's what.

Bosses and landlords know that so long as they have an active part in making decisions that effect them, the outcome will be a

sure bet. Yet workers are expected to put their "trust" in leaders who have always compromised and sold them out. Workers have been fooled into compromising before, and they always will be, unless they bypass bureaucratic "leadership" and take an active part in the direction of their lives.

For a libertarian, grass-roots democratic labor union!

— Jamal Hannah

Stop Your Whining

The real problem today is that little old ladies are walking all over enormous mega-corporations like McDonalds, and ruthlessly exploiting them. Poor, defenseless multinational Leviathan juggernauts are being "Victimised" by remorseless and cruel juries of ordinary citizens.

(Who's doing all the whining again?)

But Congress just passed a law to protect these mighty "Victims" from the vicious predations of democratic jurisprudence. From now on, allegedly to protect 'Small Business' from excessive lawsuits, juries will be prevented from awarding damages greater than \$500,000. (This is going to protect "Small Businesses"?)

It's selfish and greedy for Juries to award *other* people, *strangers*, tons of money

from big corporations, therefore we must protect them by law; juries must be *regulated*. Regulation is fair unless it regulates companies. Restricting in any way the behaviour of Chase Manhattan Bank is a violation of "Individual Liberties." Chase Manhattan is exactly the sort of individual they meant in the constitution, not some damn socialistic peasant on a jury!

All the money they got they "made" themselves, out of thin air, and the fact that we are all broke is because we don't got any family values no more, and we let hippies burn the flag.

The corporations and their apologists say: "We're all in this ship together!"

But how come we got to do all the fucking rowing? If I lose all my money in Las Vegas, will Congress bail me out like they did the Savings and Loans?

I say we make a new law to really protect small business. Instead of a maximum award of \$500,000, make it a *minimum* award. Anybody who can't afford to pay that gets off with a warning.

I know it's cruel and unfair to rip off the nice Corporations who let us live in this pink paradise of perfect products, but I'm an evil-minded wicked person.

The Six biggest bank mergers in the

history of the world took place during the O.J. Simpson trial.

You want to talk about unfairness? What kind of a sick world do we live in when thousands and thousands of lions go hungry every year in Africa when millions of plump, juicy Christians are allowed to roam free?

"The great are only great because we are on our knees. Let us rise!" —Max Stirner

— General "Strike"

Industrial Worker Sustaining fund

October 1995

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Nicholas Topping	Milwaukee WI	10
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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Note to Contributors

We welcome your letters, articles, photographs and other contributions to the *Industrial Worker*. We especially welcome articles on IWW organizing efforts, direct action campaigns on the job floor, and successful labor solidarity efforts.

Our deadline is the first Friday of each month. We prefer articles to be submitted either via email or on 3 1/4" computer disk (two files, one formatted, one ascii).

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 120: Forest Workers
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 640: Restaurant, Hotel & Building Service Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

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Toronto Group- 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

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ENGLAND

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Oxford branch- c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Health Workers IU 610 and Suffolk IWW- del Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Centre, 16 Old Foundry Road, Ipswich IP4 2DU

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IU620 Film Shop UCB Recyclers- 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener
IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop- M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607
Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
IU630 Film Workers- Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. LA 90026 213/368-4604
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IU630 GOC- Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609
Boston Area GMB- PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.

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IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons 313/769-0695
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

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Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. <phillyiww@iww.org>

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop- 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop- Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

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UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group- c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

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Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB- PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Delegate: Jerry Chernow
Madison GMB- PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Working to Save the Planet

The recycling jobshops, the Ecology Center Curbside Recyclers and A.S.U.C. Recycling Collective, are not immune to the capitalist class. Even though A.S.U.C. is a collective, they have their bosses. The Ecology Center and the Curbside Recyclers have their eco-liberal managers that are more "grass" (as in green money) than they are "roots." Management will buy the opinion of a consultant rather than work with its own people. This type of tactic has become commonplace and tends to be a sign of a weak management.

Actually in this case, the hired consultant said management was the problem. The big problem is that management has a shoot-first-ask-questions-later policy with handing out suspensions. That's the problem you have when management won't communicate with their workers. After a little union pressure, management decided to call for a curb-side committee, made up of reps from each group involved, to discuss the matter as per the new contract. Why has this not happened before? Who suffers from this lack of action? The workers, that's who!

The A.S.U.C. Recycling Collective also has its bosses: it is funded by the local warlords, the U.C. Regents, to do source-separation recycling for their Berkeley campus. The collective is a business within the Associated Students of the University of California or A-SUC. A-SUC's main decision-making body is the elected student government. For most of the 90s, they have practiced typically-crooked, Republican-style politics, seeking to destroy anything that does not reap a clear profit.

By joining the IWW, the recyclers took action to protect their collective structure and very existence. While the collective fought the Pilot Project, funded by the University to replace them, the "fat cat" A-SUC senate repeatedly over-funded its own pork-barrel projects. By the time students kicked them out in fall 1995, the recyclers' funding had been slashed to nothing.

With the election of the new student senate, lip-service has been paid to healing the wounds. The new student president has offered to help push the collective's demands. The collective needs a second truck, a mechanic, and a long over-due raise.

One thing I have noticed in organizing with these earth-friendly jobshops and their bosses is that no one will address the fundamental issue of *saving the planet* and educating the community. The only "green" that the city of Berkeley and U.C Berkeley care about is the almighty dollar.

Saoirse!

FW Liam Flynn X343301
East Bay Office SF-GMB

Around Our Union

Aberystwyth news

Just to show that not everything we revolutionary unionists organise goes to plan...

Members in Aberystwyth set up a meeting to debate with the local Green Party whether Parliament could bring about a better society. A thousand leaflets advertising the meeting were distributed in town, posters were put up in local supermarkets, and an ad was taken out in the local press. The meeting was held in a grand hall in the university college of Wales in the middle of the town, literature stalls were set up and earnest Wobblies gathered and waited...

Attending were three Wobs, one of whom was a speaker; the meeting chair, from the Welsh Socialist group Cymru Goch; the Green Party speaker; his family; and five members of the public.

The meeting has led to a couple of developments, however. Radicals of different persuasions have agreed to get together regularly to discuss how to revitalise class politics and how to overcome the apathy of many locals. There are many obstacles to this: the town has a population of only 20,000, is basically a rural community with little industry, and is cut off in real terms from much of the rest of Wales, let alone Britain, with the nearest urban centre Swansea (or Abertawe in native Welsh) being a long coastal drive away.

The obstacles, however, have led to the town being virtually untouched by the sectarian politics associated with some left-wing groups and leftists of different persuasions find it easier to work together. Having said that, however, there is a nasty almost fascist streak among some Welsh nationalists who view anyone from outside the area as an interloper and who argue for English people to be expelled. Cymru Goch stresses its opposition to British colonialism in Wales but is proud to support Welsh internationalism. A recent trawl through their publication *Faner Goch* found references to the IWW, Bill Haywood, Revolutionary Unionism in the South Wales Miners Federation and a favourable review of CNT actions in Puerto Real.

Amnesty Intl. Probes Food Not Bombs Busts

Since 1988, nearly 1,000 arrests of Food Not Bombs (FNB) members in San Francisco have occurred for FNB's distribution of free vegetarian food to the poor and homeless and FNB's protests of the militarist policies of the U.S. government. Many of those arrested report being subjected to death threats and physical abuse by the police. Both Amnesty International in London and the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva are investigating the FNB case. On October 28th, Amnesty International sent San Francisco city government officials a four-page letter stating that they believed the attacks on FNB are a serious violation of articles 19, 20 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of other human rights treaties.

It now appears that this pattern of government harassment is expanding to other communities in the U.S. Since May of 1995, members of FNB in Arcata, Calif., have been under continuous police surveillance. On November 7th five members of FNB were scheduled to appear in court to face charges of violating a court order prohibiting the distribution of free food by FNB. The five defendants faced a possible sentence of five days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for each violation of the court order. One of the five was charged with serving food on six different occasions and therefore faces a 30-day jail sentence and a \$6,000 fine.

Wanted for Ecocide

Over 2,400 people showed their support for Headwaters Forest, one of the last remaining stands of old growth redwoods in the world, Sept. 24 at a huge event at the Pacific Lumber mill in Carlotta, Humboldt County, California. Following the rally 264 people, including myself and Judi Bari, were arrested when they entered Pacific Lumber land. Following this two lawsuits were filed challenging the legality of Pacific Lumber's intentions to carry out "salvage logging" operations, resulting in a federal injunction against Pacific Lumber which prevents them from logging Headwaters Forest.

While the main portion of Headwaters Grove still stands, a timber harvest plan, known as "096," on the northern side of the forest is still being logged because this portion of the land is owned by Red Emerson's Elk River Timber Company, a subsidiary of Sierra Pacific Intl. About one hundred Earth First! activists and a handful of Wobs have been taking direct action in trying to protect 096 from certain destruction, but so far their effort has been only partially successful. The survival of the old and Second Growth redwoods and Douglas firs of 096 are vital to the health of the main portion of Headwaters grove, especially since Sierra Pacific intends to log right up to the northern edge of Pacific Lumber land. Intact, 096 would protect the main portion of Headwaters from the edge effect, a phenomenon that befalls fragmented old growth groves. The Coalition to Save Headwaters Forest had hoped to convince Emerson to sell his portion of Headwaters to the public so that both lands could be combined in a debt-for-nature swap. While the main portion of Headwaters may indeed be acquired by the people, Red Emerson has flatly refused to cooperate.

Meanwhile, in southwestern Oregon, not more than 150 miles away from Headwaters, the Federal Government under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has declared a 36-square-mile closure area in the Sugarloaf region of the Siskiyou National Forest and awarded a "salvage" sale to multinational Boise-Cascade. Boise-Cascade has been carrying out "salvage logging" operations in three substantial units of this forest which are for all intents and purposes more clear cuts. Any-



Boston Wobblies have just applied for a General Membership Branch charter. Here three members staff a literature table at the Socialist Party convention.

photo: Bill Shakalis

one entering the closure area, other than the Forest Service, law enforcement, loggers, or Boise-Cascade officials, is subject to arrest and trespassing charges on public land! So far there have been about 100 arrests of Earth First! activists and IWW organizers. Like Maxxam and Sierra Pacific, Boise-Cascade's only concerns are power and profit at the expense of the workers, in this case loggers, the community, and the earth itself. Direct actions against the powers that be have been next to impossible, and the fact that Boise-Cascade is using helicopters to transport loggers from their campsites to their work sites daily, all of which are well inside the closure area. Entering into a dialogue with the loggers has been especially difficult.

Direct action strategies have not been entirely unsuccessful, but they are only a small part of the efforts necessary to prevent Boise-Cascade, Sierra Pacific, and Maxxam from raping and pillaging the earth, not to mention using the loggers as their pawns in this unholy war against nature. I suggest that we help organize a boycott against these timber barons. Here are a number of strategies we could use:

1) locate the local corporate offices of Boise-Cascade, Maxxam, and Sierra Pacific and organize a protest. Contact local enviros and the local chapters of the big enviros, labor activists, and other concerned folks to help organize these events.

2) Organize a petition drive to persuade local lumber wholesalers and retailers to boycott any lumber from these corporations. If they refuse, organize boycotts against them as well.

3) Help organize limber workers against these practices, not to mention their bosses. This last strategy is currently being employed by the IWW and Earth First! but needs to be increased on all fronts.

It's time to shut 'em down!

This is a labor issue as well.

Ecotopia central and northern California Earth First! has in the past decade managed to initiate a dialogue with the loggers and to form the beginnings of an alliance against the corporations raping and pillaging our planet. The capitalist establishment's myth that the issue is one of trees vs. jobs is beginning to be deconstructed, yet there still remain many who believe the corporate-government lies. While I was risking arrest in the Sugarloaf sale, seven Earth First!ers and myself had a dialogue with a veteran logger who disagreed with Boise-Cascade's practices but has given up resisting the bosses. About three weeks later, while trying to save the 096 Headwaters, several of us tried to convince a struggling logger that his and his daughter's livelihood do not depend on the murder of the forests. His response to our desperate pleas was to keep felling trees. Three weeks earlier, this same logger had rammed into a gate which had been locked down by two Earth First!ers

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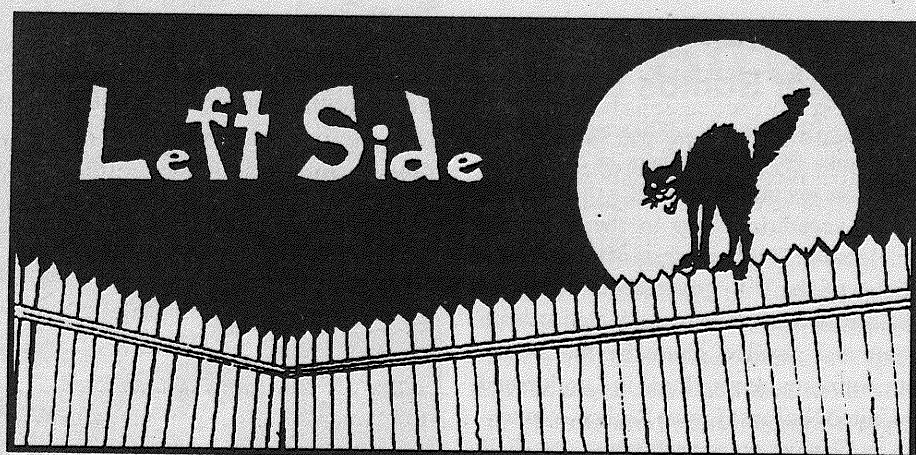
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Corporate Socialism rears its ugly head, and continued to do so in the People's Republic of China. In the capital city of Beijing there has come into being the trendy "oxygen bars." There, at the end of a hard day in that polluted city, young professionals can unwind by inhaling fresh air for around \$6 an hour. For a little extra cash, special herbs and spices with medicinal qualities can be mixed in with this canned fresh air.

What can be expected where roadside carnival attractions feature a lissome young woman buried up to her neck in squirming snakes. As one of the entrepreneurs told a Western reporter, "You have Disneyland but we have snakes."

Meanwhile, up in Canada, the Shuswap and other indigenous nations have been using Big Lake (also known as Gustafsen Lake) for their sacred ceremonies. This lake and the adjoining land has always been in the traditional Shuswap territory. Lyle James, an American rancher, claims ownership to this land but "gives permission" for the Shuswap to use it. For the past six years the Shuswap have demanded that James produce proof of his ownership.

This past June, prior to the Sundance ceremonies, James and twelve armed ranch hands served one of the Shuswap elders with an eviction notice and threatened to hang the "red nigger" and burn down his house. Sundancers and supporters from other Nations arrived to defend the elder and his family against any further threats of violence.

The Sundance proceeded without any further harassment, but in August two men from the camp were arrested on charges of "poaching" and "possession of illegal weapons." Some days later, two men from the camp discovered eight heavily armed and camouflaged men sneaking around the bushes near the camp. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police at first denied that these were members of their SWAT team, suggesting instead that they must be red-neck vigilantes intent on attacking the camp. However, later that month, when the RCMP held their first press conference on the "situation" at Big Lake, they admitted that it was their men.

Ironically, it was the RCMP who called the defenders of the Sundance Ground "terrorists," displaying a cache of illegal weapons allegedly confiscated from the two men who had been arrested one week previously. One of them at this writing is still being held incommunicado in maximum security in Prince George, so there is no way of hearing the other side of the story.

The RCMP also claimed that there had been several incidents of shooting over the past week which they attributed to the people in the camp. These claims are being used as justification for mounting the largest RCMP operation in Canadian history. The camp has been surrounded by SWAT teams and armored personnel carriers. Helicopters frequently fly surveillance over the camp. With communications to and from the camp cut off, and the media and supporters not allowed within 15 kilometers of the site, the RCMP are the sole source of "information" about the situation. Local politicians continue to hide behind the skirts of the RCMP, maintaining that this is purely a criminal matter.

The defenders of the Sundance Grounds are not the terrorists. They are sovereignists who are defending their sovereignty, as set out in the Royal Proclamation of 1763 which guarantees that all unceded territories shall be left "unmolested and undisturbed."

George Armstrong Custer is alive and well, and living in Canada!

This month 'tis the season to be jolly, provided one is one of the many merchants convincing the rest of us to blow what little money we have left to honor the Prince of Peace as the weapons makers prodding their politician lackeys constantly seek more parts of the world in which to unload their useless produce.

The media inundations of the past year and a half has behooved your humble scribe to no longer refer to his favorite fruit drink by its initials. It was hoped in the previous column that it was over at last, and was briefly eclipsed by the million man march on Washington, D.C. For once it was gratifying to look at the boob tube to see that broad mall that stretches between Georgie the Washes space needle and the domed monstrosity on the distant rise packed solid with humanity, and no cops or soldiers in evidence.

There were no doubt many plain clothes vermin in the crowd. Those on top apparently deemed it prudent to be as unobtrusive as possible. Any unpleasant incident, and the Capital City could have been up for grabs, not to mention other cities around Freedomland.

It was something completely out of Minister Louis' hands, but the media kept harping about him as well as downplaying the numbers in attendance. Indeed, our manipulators must have been passing water in their socks, but beware: You can expect to see some band-aid offering forthwith. Don't be surprised if a certain retired general is nominated and elected to the highest office in the land. Of course, said retired general's only legitimate claim to minority status is the complexion of his derriere.

Ja wold, Santa, you old goat. There is a Virginia!

— C.C. Redcloud

Socialists in High Places

Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan has called the gut-Medicare bill passed by the Senate with the support of fellow candidates Phil Gramm and Bob Dole "the worst form of socialism," because it gives too much power to health maintenance organizations. While the fellow workers over at Socialist Party headquarters are making out red cards for Dole and Gramm, they might order up a new printing. House Speaker Newt Gingrich told newspaper editors recently that he and his get bad press because most journalists are socialists. (I can see these "socialist" journalists running around with Little Red Songbooks in their back pockets, humming the Internationale as they type their latest socialistic screeds into the newsroom computers. Unfortunately, these socialist articles somehow fail to find their way into print; at least in the newspapers I read.)

Meanwhile, the earth itself is rising up against Gingrich. He was doing the baby-kissing routine a couple weeks back, and decided a shot of him cuddling a young cougar would make a great photo op. The cougar defended itself as best it could, biting Gingrich in the face. This followed a September incident where a flock of geese attacked a plane carrying Gingrich and entourage, forcing it off a Michigan runway. Gingrich survived; his bodyguards are reportedly checking the ground the Gingrich treads underfoot for insects and other potential attackers...

Worked to Death

The US government says 6,588 workers were killed on the job last year, a figure that includes only those who dropped dead on the spot (or died very soon after an "industrial accident") — not the tens of thousands of workers who suffered slow, tortured deaths caused by decades of industrial poisoning. That's 18 workers killed each day by the bosses, a figure that surely establishes the employing class in the foremost ranks of serial killers. Yet how many police departments do you see breaking down the doors of these rich parasites to haul them off to jail?

Even straw bosses are not safe from the bosses' murderous ways. The family of a Raytheon Co. foreman who allegedly committed suicide (his head was cut off by a large circular saw in a Raytheon machine shop) is suing, saying Raytheon's unreasonable demands worked him to death. The foreman had complained to doctors in 1994 that he worked 70 to 80 hours a week to keep his job amid Raytheon's deep job cuts. After he was hospitalized and diagnosed with depression, the company briefly cut back his work load. But on May 15 his supervisor told him he was going back on the old schedule. Santo Alba died later that day. Raytheon refused to pay his widow death benefits, claiming Alba was not working when he died.

Are We Not Slaves?

Workers at the Berkshire (Mass.) *Eagle* are protesting a proposal by new owner Dean Singleton (MediaNews Group, owner of the Denver Post and 75 other newspapers) to gut their benefits. New grounds for firing would include speaking negatively about the company, supporting striking workers at the Eagle or any other firm, refusing to do struck work, picketing the newspaper, honoring picket lines, etc. Management would have the right to subject workers to physical and psychiatric exams at any time. Wages have already been slashed, and sick leave and vacation pay are under the axe...

Surrendering Rights

The IWW has always fought discrimination of all kinds seeing no use for hatred

and bigotry, whether directed against our fellow workers on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, etc. Some of us can't stand bosses, politicians, generals and the like, but that's another story.

So I'm all for equal rights. What I don't understand is why some oppressed people are trying to dump one of the few rights they have — the right to get out of the army. As things presently stand, any gay is supposed to be able to escape military servitude by announcing, publicly and proudly, their sexual orientation. I've always assumed that when those right-wing bigots run around screaming about "special rights" this get-out-of-the-Army-free policy is what they had in mind (it's the only way I can think of in which gays are particularly privileged in our society). I'd think the policy would be a pretty good "recruiting" tool as well. I know if some general was trying to send me off to kill my fellow workers or be killed by them, and I could get out of it by announcing I was gay, I'd re-think my orientation mighty quick. So you can imagine my astonishment to learn that ex-soldiers are suing to overturn the policy, asking the courts to put them back into uniform!

Equal rights is all well and good. But there are two routes to equality. Some folks figure that since some people are enslaved, then we should all be thrown in chains. I've never seen the logic of this position, myself, though I can see how it might appeal to the bosses. Surely it makes much more sense to hold onto whatever rights we have, and work to extend them to everyone.

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Class TV

Boston Globe columnist Ellen Goodman suggests that daytime talk TV try out a new concept — chronicling the ways people are getting screwed by the economy (Oct. 29, p 63). "All you need to do is book the CEO of a corporation that's posting megaprofits while replacing permanent workers with temps... There he is in the guest chair, when out from the green room pops a 30-year former employee who was outplaced into a creative new lifestyle as a cab-driver..."

"You want humor? OK, get the 25 top-paid executives whose 1994 wages added up to \$1.5 billion. Ask one to explain exactly why he's worth \$10,000 a day or \$400 an hour..." Or ask exec's to explain why they promised jobs for tax breaks and then took the money and ran. This could make for some compelling viewing, and giving the way the bosses are running the world these days there's little danger of running out of material...

Punishing Capital

You wouldn't know it by listening to the pundits, but lots of workers are very angry these days. You can see it in the pressure to dump worthless piecards like Lane Kirkland and Tom Donahue (and, soon, John Sweeney). You can see it in the thousands of Boeing workers who marched through the aircraft manufacturer's Everett, Washington plant October 3rd for hours in a wildcat action that showed just what workers thought of demands that they swallow concessions while the bosses issued themselves \$12.6 million in stock options.

After marching through the entire 400-plus acre plant, picking up more and more workers (growing from an initial 150 to 4,500 or so), workers marched on the executive complex chanting "Strike! Strike!" and "World class my ass." The executive dining room was carpeted with contract proposal confetti afterwards. 32,500 Machinists nationwide struck three days later to block company demands for concessions and unlimited subcontracting. More than 20,000

Editor's Notebook



Gina Grant: You Go Girl!

We who have been poor, homeless, jailed, hospitalized and otherwise disenfranchised long ago learned that crime *does* pay. But only in accordance with one's standing in society.

Take the case of Gina Grant. Currently a student at Tufts University, Gina served juvenile time — six months, and five years' probation — for killing her mother. That the circumstances were truly mitigating is underscored by the brevity of her jail time, as well as the fact that this tragic incident occurred in South Carolina, hardly a state known for practicing Christian forgiveness in criminal matters.

**Kissinger and Huntington.
Serial killers in suits,
collecting honorary
doctorates, Nobel Prizes,
and lots of cash...**

Gina moved up to Cambridge, Mass., was doing well in high school, and had been admitted to Harvard. And then, as the result of her appearance in a *Globe Sunday Magazine* article about kids who survive trauma and go on with their lives, some unknown, mean-spirited person faxed copies of the news clippings from South Carolina about her case to the admissions office of Fair Hah-vahd. In a fit of self-righteousness in keeping with their Puritan heritage, they canceled her admission.

Let's have a clear understanding here. It's totally unforgivable to be an undergraduate at Harvard if you have committed terrible acts as a young child — even if you've recognized the gravity of your deed and have been sincerely working on pulling your life together. In order to be truly affiliated with Harvard you have to have serial-killer credentials, like a Henry Kissinger or Samuel P. Huntington. In some very major ways, their research and policy recommendations to the US government led to the deaths of millions of Vietnamese and the maiming and general immiseration of millions more.*

Kissinger and Huntington. Serial killers in suits, collecting honorary doctorates, Nobel Prizes, and *lots* of cash. And Harvard is a place that trains people for such skull-duggery. But only after you're admitted. Gina Grant is lucky that she was dissed by Harvard when she was. It's difficult to pull your life together when you're hanging out

with known figures in organized crime and their trainees. Anyway, she was admitted to Tufts. And all lived happily ever after — *Not*.

On her first day of class, Gina was greeted by protests orchestrated by "Tufts' Voice of Reason," the *Primary Source*, edited by one Colin Delaney. "The University shouldn't be admitting someone who took another life," Delaney whined to a reporter. And then added, in language I've not hear since I played in the sandbox: "I don't want to sit next to her in class, I don't want her as a roommate and I don't want her getting a degree from the same university I am."

So they-ah! And she can't have any of my lunch either. Nanananana! So Gina escaped the clutches of Ivy League organized crime only to be burdened with having to play Kindergarten Kop to the adherents of the "Voice of Reason." Funny, didn't some people get sent to the guillotine in the 1790s in the name of that voice? These are our supposed future leaders in business and government, the future presidors over social disasters yet to come.

These leaders are threatened by the likes of Gina Grant. Imagine the Gina Grants of this country showing us all how to redeem this country, basing that on her personal power of example. Imagine what would happen if other individuals with blemished pasts started taking on positions of responsibility and leadership. Imagine all of the outcasts of society — those whom the experts say can't take care of ourselves and need caring for by the likes of people barking out their "Voice of Reason." Imagine a whole society where leaders come from among our people who have done wrong, even terrible wrong, and have owned up to it.

Imagine us working people proving to ourselves (and we are the only ones whom we need to convince) that we can not only run this country as well as those who presently do, but that we can create new realities based on our human needs.

This is the ultimate threat posed by Gina Grant, your sister and mine. This is the threat we should make good on. Our lives depend on it.

*Huntington, in particular, gained prominence — or notoriety? — with his policy of "forced urbanization" (the systematic carpet-bombing of the South Vietnamese countryside to force the population into the cities) while presidential advisor to both Johnson and Nixon.

—Gary Hicks

unionized technical workers and engineers are scabbing on the strike even though their own contract expires in a few weeks.

Meanwhile, at my local bookstore I picked up a crudely drawn flyer that shows a suited guy and a cop, holding a huge back of money and with their arms in the air, surrounded by rifle-toting workers. The caption reads: "Fire the Boss • Jail the Police • Burn the Money."

The text urges workers to join a mutual-protection association to protect against getting fired, eviction, harassment and discrimination, and to ensure access to food and other necessities. "You may be 'surviving' now," it says, "but protecting those who are most vulnerable shores up your position against your boss, landlord, cops, etc." It concludes: "Firing Squad is a group whose members pledge to protect each other by taking direct action against their common enemies." It's probably just rhetoric, but I think you'd have to say whoever put out the flier was more than a little pissed...

Shooting your boss or your landlord may have a certain emotional appeal, but it's hardly a practical solution for the ills that plague us. Rather, we need to organize to dump the bosses off our backs. More and

more workers recognize this fact; IWW membership is up 30 percent from this time a year ago, and still climbing. We've got a long ways to go, of course, before we'll have the bosses on the run, but it's a start. What are you doing to build One Big Union?

Solidarity: Only a Word?

Although the rubber workers (now merged into the USWA) have abandoned their strike against Bridgestone/Firestone tires and returned to work when they could (the company "replaced" 2,300 strikers with scabs), they still have no contract. They are working under rotating 12-hour shifts under gutted safety rules, with no grievance procedure. In an attempt to force Bridgestone/Firestone to the bargaining table, the union has launched a national boycott campaign against the tire maker.

So when the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority reached a tentative 5-year contract to buy millions of dollars worth of tires from Bridgestone, unions were outraged. Fortunately they have allies on the MTBA Board, or so you would think. For example, Domenic Bozzotto, president of Hotel Workers Union Local 25, appointed to the MTBA Board as a sop to the labor

An Injury to One Is An Injury to All

Wobblies spend a lot of their time in support activities for workers in other unions, on many occasions because those workers aren't getting the proper support from their own unions. Often this makes us seem invisible. While we're always trying to educate workers about the need for class struggle and labor solidarity, we don't try to dominate. We're there to increase the ranks and to help, not to lead. We don't stay away from a struggle because it is going to benefit another union. We're there because it will benefit the rank and file. We do our educating through example, by advocating and participating in militant actions, not by engaging in vanguard politics. Sometimes it wins us members. Usually it earns us respect.

Fellow Worker Bob Rivera spent a recent weekend running a lit table at the national convention of New Directions, the UAW rank-and-file movement. While there he talked with a member of the United Mine Workers who told him that the Wobblies were the only radical organization allowed to distribute literature during the Pittston Coal strike because of our common sense approach to supporting Fellow Workers in other unions.

One of the Staley road warriors at the convention expressed appreciation for the coverage of their struggle in the *Industrial Worker*. He also sent greetings to Fellow Worker Jennifer Madsen in Utah who has done a great deal of support work for the Staley workers.

Here in Michigan the Wobblies are currently working with Jobs With Justice in support of the striking Detroit Newspaper workers: leafletting the businesses of advertisers to discourage customer patronage, walking the line with the strikers, publicizing the strike issues, fund raising, etc.

Rank and file workers and concerned community members have been active in JWJ here for about 4 years. We've helped United Food and Commercial Workers gain a contract with Kroger, driven a lumber yard out of business when it attempted to bust the union of Teamster hi-lo drivers, helped Teamster warehouse workers get a contract renewal in the face of another failed attempt at union-busting by Jacobson's Department Stores, walked the line with UAW members in organizing drives, picketed with skilled trade workers to prevent the use of scabs at construction sites, etc.

At recent JWJ meetings and actions, workers from Koppert Biological Systems have been participating. They are struggling for union recognition. Their chosen bargaining agent is the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. FLOC represents some 6,000 agricultural workers in the Ohio area. It is best known for a successful national boycott against Campbell's Soups which led to union recognition and contracts for thousands of cannery workers.

Koppert is an international firm with headquarters in the Netherlands. The local plant maintains and distributes bees for pollination at greenhouses throughout the U.S. and Canada. The company has refused to recognize the union and the five workers have consequently gone on strike. The fellow workers in Jobs With Justice have joined them on their picket line, some risking life and limb when the Koppert manager drove through the line at an estimated 40 mph. Wobblies have made contacts with Fellow Workers in Europe to put pressure on the home office. Labor support activities can also lead to organizing possibilities. We've contacted Fellow Workers in California about looking into organizing the Koppert workers there. We've also made contacts with members near Koppert customers along the east coast of the U.S. and in Canada to encourage local boycotts. (Being agricultural workers, the Koppert beekeepers do not have even the limited protections of the National Labor Relations Act. The good news is they are not victimized by NLRA restrictions against secondary boycotts.) FW Deke Nihilson has put out the word on the growing IWW internet connection. We've started receiving reports from fellow workers in Europe who have contacts at Koppert and are willing to help.

I suspect Koppert is going to be very surprised to find international support for five beekeepers in Ann Arbor. But that has to be the direction of the labor movement if it is to have any hope of combatting international capital. There is no struggle too small. An injury to one is an injury to all. And once again the Wobblies will be doing their bit for the cause.

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Happy winter holidays to all of our good readers. When you're considering your New Year's resolutions, keep in mind the classic admonition of Wobbly and labor martyr Joe Hill: Don't mourn — Organize!

Fred Chase, IWW General Secretary/Treasurer

A. F. OF L. SYMPATHY

By B. L. Weber

Bill Brown was a worker in a great big shop,
Where there worked two thousand others;
They all belonged to the A. F. of L.,

And they called each other "brothers."
One day Bill Brown's union went out on strike,

And they went out for higher pay;
All the other crafts remained on the job,
And Bill Brown did sadly say:

(Chorus)

All we got was sympathy;
So we were bound to lose, you see;
All the others had craft autonomy,
Or else they would have struck with glee
But I got good and hungry,
And no craft unions go for me.
Gee! Ain't it hell, in the A. F. of L.
All you get is sympathy.

"These people have made many rules that the rich may break but the poor may not. They take their tithes from the poor and weak to support the rich and those who rule..." — Chief Sitting Bull, speaking at the Powder River Conference in 1877

"Now I explained that the workers practiced sabotage in the interest of the bosses' profits, but that the I.W.W. said, 'Go on that job and put so much cement in there, put so much clean stone in there, put so much stuff in there that they can have all the storms that can brew in southern California and that dam will still stand and there will be no loss of life or property.'" — Testimony of J. T. (Red) Doran, Chicago IWW trial

The principle work of all labor organizers is to build solidarity among their Fellow Workers. This process is subject to two very simple rules: 1) the organizer must never act alone, for labor's strength lies in solidarity; 2) the organizer must always act cautiously, for the chicanery of the boss is frequently emulated by subordinates. The temptation mounts to violate these rules. However, the organizer must resist this temptation if solidarity is to be built. It is a long row to hoe, but the success which shortcuts solidarity will prove short-lived.

I have some familiarity with the subject, as my efforts at organizing over this past year have resulted in my recent termination, after twelve years of service, with the Acco U.S.A. corporation. I have filed charges with the N.L.R.B. and the prospects for re-instatement are pretty good. But, given the likelihood of Congress gutting the N.L.R.A., I am reminded of the wisdom of Chief Sitting Bull, which still speaks directly to us more than a century later. Apparently, so long as the grasses grow and the waters flow, we will have to continue our struggle with these greedy bastards.

This is an all too familiar complaint in the pages of the *Industrial Worker*. I still can recall the sense of foreboding I felt while reading of the termination of Fellow Worker Corin Drummond at the Food Bin, earlier this year. Perhaps this is the true initiation. Perhaps the reader will say "welcome to the club." If so, then I am certain that, I could not hope to find myself in better company. I embrace this welcome wholeheartedly.

To quote from the letter of termination signed by Don Hogan, the plant manager, "In the face of a service alert you gave directives without authorization from management to other teammates contrary to the company's goals to service our customers and provide for the growth and profit of the company. In addition, your actions are in violation of the codes of conduct and the team concepts that we have worked so diligently at imparting to our teammates."

I must confess my pride at being the subject of this twisted statement. I might almost wish it were true; if only I knew what Mr. Hogan was referring to. I do have an inkling of insight here; but to properly explain Mr. Hogan's statement would require a lengthy deconstruction of the Orwellian terminology employed. The subject will bear illustration more directly, by keeping in mind the wisdom of F.W. Doran regarding managerial sabotage.

On September 11th, management announced the impending elimination of the Kiefel Helper job; effective Sept. 18th or 25th, depending on the circumstances. Management has been actively pursuing a re-engineering project for quite some time. New automation was introduced which, management claimed, would make the Kiefel Operator's job easier; thereby necessitating the overloading of the same job by eliminating the helper. Of course, the new automation was essentially the same as the old automation, except that it was expected to work. Needless to say, the new automation did not perform any of the job tasks of the helper, which were recombined with the operator's job.

Wobbly Fired for Organizing Against Sp

Now, if two workers are digging a hole and the boss eliminates one worker, then the remaining worker will be digging twice as hard, or the hole will take twice as long to dig; unless the boss introduces a backhoe. However, if the two workers were already using a backhoe and if the new backhoe is the same as the old backhoe in that it fails to perform any of

the current job tasks of either worker, despite the boss's claim of greater reliability for the new backhoe; then the remaining worker will either dig twice as hard or take twice as long to dig the hole. I leave it to the reader to guess which option the boss will prefer.

Keep in mind that our F.W.s at Acco USA have been working twelve hour shifts, six

days a week, while occasionally volunteering (?) for work on Sundays. To say that our F.W.s were not happy campers would be an obvious understatement. There was a considerable amount of loose talk regarding the subject of a slowdown. I urged our F.W.s to be cautious about what they said and who they said it to. However the loose talk continued even as the production declined, prompting management to issue the 'service alert' alluded to by Mr. Hogan.

On Sept. 16th, a meeting was called by our affected F.W.s in the parking lot after the end of our shift at 3:00 a.m. It was at this meeting that I supposedly gave the 'unauthorized directives' of Mr. Hogan's letter. Now I spoke a good deal at this meeting; but I never advocated a slowdown. To the contrary, I specifically warned that open advocacy of slowdown would result in termination. What I did advocate was along the lines of F.W. Doran's advice — namely working to rule. I pointed out a number of ways in which our F.W.s habitually neglect the established procedures of the job in the areas of safety, quality, proper maintenance of the machines, and the all-important area of record-keeping. I urged that the full measure of diligence and conscientiousness should be observed in all of these areas.

I am quite certain that the customer would not object to such diligence and conscientiousness. However, I find it somewhat ironic that such exemplary performance would be 'contrary to the goals of the company to service its customers and provide for the growth and profit of the company.' As for 'the codes of conduct and team concepts,' I find this to be a non-sequitur.

Now, readers might wish to hear the real reason for my termination, besides the obvious one of being an organizer. On Sept. 6th I filed charges with the N.L.R.B., alleging illegal domination of a labor organization. On Sept. 21st I was terminated. I had been interviewed by the N.L.R.B.'s Field Attorney on Sept. 14th. I was told that my affidavit and a copy of the formal charges would be mailed to the management at Acco U.S.A. that afternoon. Given, say, five days for delivery; this would place the charges in management's hands on or about Sept. 19th; just two days before my termination.

The labor organization cited in the N.L.R.B. charges was officially designated by the management as the Vinyl Change Team. Readers may recall previous articles

in the February and June issues of the *Industrial Worker* which mentioned the operation of this company union.

To recap: management imposed a rotating four-day work schedule in September of 1994. Due to the lack of adequate training for the new hires required to staff this schedule and the confusion of shifting work assignments from

one machine to the next, as well as discontent with the pay cut such a reduction of hours entailed, there occurred a decline in production of some 12 percent.

On Dec. 12, 1994, management created the Team asking each of five departments on the shop floor to elect spokespersons to represent employees in regular meetings with the management, to resolve any and all issues of interest and concern and to address the 'service alert' resulting from the decline in production.

On Dec. 14th I attended the first meeting of the V.C.T. as one of the elected representatives. At that meeting it was decided to revert to the old work schedule effective January 3rd, 1995. Also, an offer was extended to exchange two vacation days from 1995 for the holiday pay which was denied several F.W.s who failed to work the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This offer was declined. Management refused to honor their pledge of triple-pay to F.W.s who had volunteered to work the Thanksgiving holidays.

Therefore, right from the start, the V.C.T. was a labor organization as defined in N.L.R.A. section 8,2(5), U.S.C. 152(5); in that, it is a body in which the 'employees participate' and whose purpose at least in part is to 'deal with the employer about wages and working conditions.' The ways in which management illegally dominated this labor organization are numerous. I will give some examples...

In January 1995 management announced the team concept. The employee reps to the V.C.T. had absolutely zero input in this. Management appointed team leaders despite our proposal for elections. Management insisted that the team leaders be admitted to the V.C.T. over our objections that the composition of the V.C.T. would be skewed in management's favor. Management refused to allow election of a replacement rep for one the management-appointed team leaders. Two of the team leaders were supervisors. Management provided exclusive training for team leaders who were considered part of the management from then on. Team leaders were assigned many managerial functions including the bi-annual performance review affecting employees' wages. Management refused to allow employees an opportunity to review the performance of the team leaders.

In March 1995 workers conducted a petition drive asking management to refrain from coercing employees into 'volunteering' for work on Sundays. (This was discussed in the June issue of the *I.W.*) At the next meeting of the V.C.T. management insisted that all issues of interest and concern to the employees be brought to the table at the V.C.T. meetings. In this way management exerted a veto power over the employ-

ees' right to engage in protected concerted activities. Several attempts to organize around such issues were effectively stymied as a result.

The reps proposed changes to the bi-annual performance review which deducts percentage points off workers' wage increase for absenteeism and tardiness despite the excessive mandatory overtime. Management announced that the entire performance review was being redesigned by a separate committee of team leaders and managers. Management denied any duplicity in requiring the reps to take all business at the V.C.T. meetings while management conducted business on separate tracks independent of the V.C.T. The result, of course, was a system of merit pay which the reps would have opposed.

The reps sought input into a video training program for machine operators which we caught wind of due to the intrusion of cameras on the shop floor. However, management insisted that only the team leaders would aid in the design of the training program. Management was increasingly non-plussed by the reps' audacity at pleading for access to managerial prerogatives.

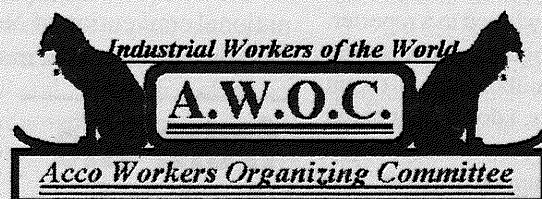
At one of the V.C.T. meetings management acknowledged our concerns regarding the issue of burn-out from the work schedule of excessive mandatory overtime by announcing their intention to provide absentee replacements. This was in response to a number of proposals from the reps including paid sick days and changes in the payment of overtime, holiday pay and vacation pay to reflect the actual hours of work rather than a fictional eight-hour day and forty-hour week.

Management rejected these proposals out of hand and insisted that the team leaders would schedule such unpaid absences, provided workers show cause and give several days' advance notice. This was little improvement over the existing policy and drew fire from our F.W.s, who rightly questioned what good the reps might be doing. One of the team leaders overheard some rumors about management's insincerity on the burn-out issue. Management convened an emergency session of the V.C.T. to examine how such rumors get started and how to stop them. The reps were roundly criticized for failing to faithfully represent management's positions. We were told to be very careful about how we portray the business of the V.C.T. to our teammates.

The reps asked for clarification of the lock-out/tag-out procedures. Management had conducted O.S.H.A.-required training of affected employees but had failed to follow through with written lists specifying the hazards and circumstances under which the procedures would apply, while over-emphasizing the liability of the affected employees. This has yet to be done despite an O.S.H.A. investigation stemming from several accidents including an amputation. Once again management insisted that the team leaders would identify the hazards and determine the circumstances under which the lock-out/tag-out would apply.

I could go on and on with tales of such contretemps, but will offer only one more example. The reps had been discussing filing charges with the N.L.R.B. for some time. Management got wind of this and decided to eliminate the elected representatives altogether. They achieved this coup on August 23rd, by changing the format of the V.C.T. to a shifting roster of fifteen employees in alphabetical order every two weeks. This assured a lack of continuity in the workers' dealings with management, while management would always be prepared with a detailed agenda for V.C.T. meetings.

It has become clear to me in hindsight that N.L.R.B. charges of illegal domination



The following glossary of terms is provided to clarify the boss's speech:

Management Term:	Plain English:
Re-engineering Project	Job Eliminations
Team Concept	Continuous Speed-up
Work Cell Concept	Job Competition
Re-Classification	Wage Inequity
Merit Pay	Continuous Speed-up
Gain Sharing	Job Eliminations
Overtime	Wage Concessions
Flexible Work Schedule	Pay Cut
Profit Sharing	Wage Concessions
Performance Review	Disciplinary Action
Re-Training	De-Skilling
I.W.W.	Worker Autonomy
A.W.O.C.	A Fighting Chance

continued on page 10

Workers Battle Ontario Cuts

A series of demonstrations across Ontario continues to demonstrate workers' outrage against the plans of the province's new Progressive Conservative government.

Some 10,000 protesters converged on the provincial parliament building Sept. 27, part of a coalition of unionists, political activists, anti-poverty organizations, community groups, unemployed, single moms on welfare, etc. from every corner of the working class. Some tried to storm the legislature and were met with the brutality of club-wielding security and RCMP.

The Conservatives, under the leader-

ship of Mike Harris (the Newt Gingrich of Ontario) were elected to office earlier this year on promises of radical change — a "common sense revolution" through tax and spending cuts. Harris promised voters that "you won't recognize Ontario five years from now."

When in power, the former New Democratic Party government led by Bob Rae was unwilling to challenge capital and maintained the bureaucratic status quo. It bought into the neo-liberal economics of deficit slashing and imposed the dreaded "social contract" — a direct attack on public sector workers.

The social democratic NDP was abandoned by the working class at the polls despite the insistence by some union leaders (notably the Steelworkers and United Food & Commercial Workers) that workers should stand firm by the party.

The NDP's inability or unwillingness to challenge capital opened the doors to the rabidly anti-worker agenda of the conservatives. The corporate white men in business suits have indeed been busy. Organized labor will suffer hard blows. Bill 40 (passed by the former NDP government), which banned scab labor and made it easier for workers to join a union, will be repealed. Cuts to workplace health and safety programs will be made. Enforcement of health and safety standards will be reduced. Tens of thousands of public sector workers will lose their jobs.

At this writing deep cuts are being made to women's shelters and educational programs for preventing abuse against women, along with complete withdrawal of funding for temporary safe homes for battered women and their children. Counseling services for perpetrators of violence have been sacrificed.

Halfway houses providing counselling for non-violent offenders have been closed. These persons will now be given the "choice" of wearing electronic ankle bracelets monitoring their whereabouts. Chain gangs will be used on highway cleanups.

There is already a 21.6 percent welfare rate cut that will affect 500,000 Ontarians, including 200,000 single mothers who support 400,000 children. Workfare programs will be imposed for those on welfare.

The effect of the cut in welfare rates and the introduction of workfare will be a downward pressure on wages as underpaid workers begin to compete with unionized labor.

On the political end, the Ontario NDP is decimated. The Liberal Party, which campaigned on much the same agenda as the Conservatives, now pose themselves as defenders of the underdog.

While organized labor in the Ontario Federation of Labour has proclaimed solidarity in the face of the Tory "revolution," its response is disjointed because of the fallout over its relationship to the NDP.

The Steelworkers and the UFCW continue to call for a return to the NDP and insist on the legislative road at the next (distant) election as the end of the fightback campaign. While the Canadian Auto Workers is not willing to abandon the NDP outright, it advocates a regroupment of forces, strengthening ties to rank-and-file workers and closer ties to organizations in the community under attack in order to build a social movement. Buzz Hargrove, president of the CAW, has voted to struggle against the Tory government by non-cooperation and agitation in every workplace.

The Conservative agenda strives to pit worker against worker — men against women, higher wage workers against the poor and those on welfare, private sector against public employees, non-organized workers against organized labor, in a spirit of meanness and finger pointing. The small or middle business class, hit hard by the ravages of the economic recession, urge the agenda on.

Meanwhile, the protests continue at every appearance of the new Conservative premier. As more sections of the working class become alienated, this government may soon become a government under siege.

— Len Wallace

The Case for Shorter Work Time

The future isn't what it used to be. As late as 1970, futurists were predicting that a 3-day workweek would be the norm by the 1990s. Articles of the day imagined that the biggest problem we would have in the 1990s would be figuring out what to do with all that free time.

That future is now. Instead of one breadwinner working 24 hours per week, most families now have two breadwinners each working 40 hours per week. And despite extra earners, longer work hours, and higher productivity, real family incomes in Canada have been falling since 1980.

Advances in technology mean that Canadian workers can produce more wealth in less time. Why, instead, do we find ourselves working more, and earning less?

Historically, shorter work times have been our primary and most effective tool for keeping unemployment low. Over the period between 1800 and 1950, the standard workweek was reduced by an average of three hours every decade. Sharing the work insured that labour-saving technology created leisure, not unemployment. In the simple maxim of Samuel Gompers: "So long as there is one who seeks work and cannot find it, the hours of work are too long."

by Bruce O'Hara

"Health Food" Bosses Exploit Chiapas Peasants...

manding four to five times the minimum wage as a real minimum which they could live on with dignity.

In the following weeks we began an intensive investigation. The company importing, labeling and selling the coffee is "Lebensbaum" (tree of life), a name typical for the German health food business. The boss is an ex-Maoist type, now yuppie and master over a few dozen wage-slaves. Lebensbaum has an annual turnover of some \$10 million and sells its products (coffee, tea, spices) to more than 1,500 health-food-shops in Germany and Sweden. The FAU health food branch demanded that he urge Finca Irlanda to at least double wages and improve the living, health and working conditions of the campesinos/as. He told us that the Peters family, the owners of the finca, are really nice people, humanists to boot, that their coffee is really super-hyper-organic and that they do a lot for the environment in that part of the world. Not even one word was used referring to the conditions of these really nice people's wage slaves!

In our second encounter with this hipitalist, we told him that we would inform the press and perhaps start a boycott campaign against him and Finca Irlanda if he would not accept our demands. His reaction was that he would not talk with us anymore. Instead, he informed the federation of health-food producers about what was happening.

In June, the annual congress of the FAU voted to endorse a boycott by harvest time if no change occurred in the position of Lebensbaum and Finca Irlanda. There wasn't

a change. We kicked off our boycott in September with 20,000 copies of a special issue of our FAU paper, *Direkte Aktion*. A notice was sent to more than 1,000 health food stores asking them to kick out at least the coffee from Lebensbaum. In the following weeks health food stores in more than 15 cities were picketed, informing customers about what products were being sold there. A second edition of the issue is in preparation. Leaflets, badges, and other material will follow in weeks to come. The boycott campaign is spreading day by day.

An interesting aspect has been the reaction of the health food businesses. As many of them come from leftwing and green political positions, we initially believed that knocking out Lebensbaum would be a process which would take only a couple of weeks. But first we had to learn that there is no difference anymore between "traditional" capitalist bloodsuckers and these hipitalists. Or maybe there is one; the working conditions in the health food sector are even worse than in most "normal" companies. In a way, we already knew this. That's why we had focused on these swindlers' coffee as well as on our organizing efforts in the health food sector. But as it turned out, we had only scratched the surface or of the extent this sector has already turned towards capitalist business and working conditions.

The reaction from the hipitalists showed us that they seem to have seen things more clearly than we did in the beginning. In their first statements, Lebensbaum and their hipie capitalist friends told everyone, even

those who didn't want to hear it, that the aim behind our campaign was "to do damage to all the health food business." Seems they had a more precise idea of what our organizing efforts and their consequences would mean to them than we had. The working conditions in their sweat-shops are at their worst, but nobody likes to talk about them, because "we are all one big family." What they don't tell us is that while some of the family-fathers have their private jets and are "organo-yuppieing" around, the other members of the family, mostly women, are working for them for less than \$5 per hour, which is at the lower end of wages in Germany.

All this is making the campaign very interesting. We will confront Lebensbaum at every forum concerning things organic and extend picketing to health food shops that will not stop selling Finca Irlanda coffee. In brief, we will show Lebensbaum what the price of exploiting workers is, be it in Chiapas or in Germany!

The Finca Irlanda coffee is sold not only in Germany, but in other countries as well. We are already in contact with fellow workers in the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland in order to extend the campaign to an international level. In the USA, this coffee is sold under the label "Cafe Altura" in health food stores. It would be a great thing to hear the anguished cries of the Finca Irlanda bosses crossing the seas, "No, no, not that! Not in the USA as well!" Yes boss. You didn't realize what we all know, *That An Injury To One Of Us Is An Injury To All!*

Roger, FAU

Reality of McJobs

Testimony in the McDonalds libel suit against two environmental activists continues. The trial has now turned to allegations that McDonalds violates workers rights.

Terry Pattinson, former industrial editor of the *Daily Mirror*, testified about a 1986 interview with Sid Nicholson (then McDonald's Head of Personnel) who stated "We will never negotiate wages and conditions with a union and we discourage our staff from joining." Pattinson testified that Paul Preston (McDonald's UK President) stated much the same to him in May 1990.

Michael Mehigan, owner of McDonalds stores in the Republic of Ireland since 1978, was questioned about the successful 1979 Dublin strike by McDonald's workers, which lasted seven months and resulted in recognition of the union. The company had refused to recognise the union because "we didn't want to lose control of our business," he said. It was shown that after the strike, the company avoided meeting with the union and refused to give jobs back to prominent union activists. In 1985, two union activists took the company to the Rights Commissioner claiming unfair dismissal for union activity; the court ruled in their favour.

Iain Whittle related his experiences as a crew member at McDonald's store from 1983-86, portraying McDonald's as an oppressive, anti-union company in which 'paranoid' managers competed to reduce staffing levels to save money. He described how this obsession with profit sometimes led to the sale of undercooked and unhygienic food.

Dave Turnbull, TGWU Food & Drink Workers Representative for London and the South East, testified about the low wages, poor conditions and high turnover in the catering industry. It is difficult for workers to organise and gain union recognition due to the nature of the industry and the hostility of employers to unions. Despite this, he said the TGWU had won representation, recognition and improvements in a number of companies, and he could see no reason why McDonald's workers should be denied such basic human rights.

TV Programme Hits McFood

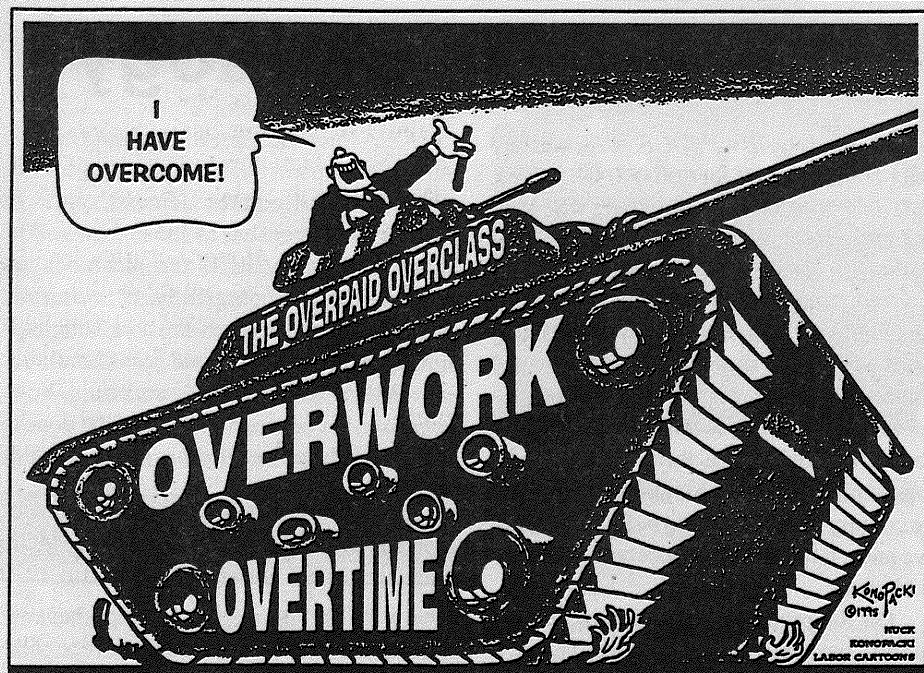
On BBC 2's satirical prime-time Saturday night news quiz show "Have I Got News For You," one round involved showing four pictures concerning a recent news story and asking the contestants to identify the odd one out, and explain why. This particular question featured the following four pictures:

- 1) The rear end of a mouse
- 2) A Nematode Worm
- 3) An e-coli bacterium
- 4) A piece of raw sewage

"Does this refer to McDonalds?" asked a contestant, adding: "I'm putting that as a question — McDonalds are somewhat litigious."

The odd one out was then identified as a piece of raw sewage, as all the other ones were reported to have been found in McDonalds food. A graphic description was given of the person who bit into their McDonalds and found the rear end of a mouse, to a chorus of Eeeughrrr! from the studio audience. McDonalds were reported to have said that the Nematode worm was harmless because it was dead, "presumably because it had been eaten by some e-coli bacteria" added one of the participants. It was explained that the odd one out was the raw sewage because it hadn't been found in McDonalds food but had merely flooded the Colchester branch. "It would have been a brave man who had a Chocolate Milkshake there that night" quipped one of the contestants, to laughter. "You're always sure of a surprise at McDonalds" said the Quizmaster.

For more information or to contribute to the defense campaign, contact the McLibel Support Campaign, c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX UK



Starbucks Issues Code of Conduct

Starbucks Coffee Company released their "Framework for a Code of Conduct" Oct. 20, in response to a grassroots campaign demanding that Starbucks set minimum standards for working conditions at the plantations from which they buy. In addition to pledging to limit child labor and support workers' access to safe housing and healthy workplaces, Starbucks code states that "we believe in the importance of progressive environmental practices and conservation efforts," "...wage and benefit levels should address the basic needs of workers and their families," and "people have the right to freely associate with whichever organizations...they choose."

However, there are important shortcomings to Starbucks' new code. It lacks any reference to possible enforcement mechanisms such as discontinuing purchases from non-compliant suppliers. There is no explicit support for the right to collective bargaining nor opposition to discrimination, and there is no reference to consulting with unions to develop a plan for implementing the code in Guatemala.

The most important next step will be to ensure that the Framework translates into concrete improvements for coffee workers. U.S./GLEP plans to monitor Starbucks' efforts in Guatemala; ask other specialty coffee companies to make similar commitments; and explore ways to increase the awareness of these new industry standards.

Copies of Starbucks' Framework are available from Jeanne McKay at Starbucks Public Relations 206/442-7745. U.S./GLEP is encouraging people to contact Starbucks to congratulate them on this important first step and to express interest in seeing some concrete implementation of the code in the near future. Write Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, Starbucks Coffee Company, PO Box 34067, Seattle, WA 98124-1067.

Metro Manila strike against high prices

In response to a 63% increase in the price of rice and massive repression of the right to form unions and to strike, Filipino workers in the National Confederation of Labor (NCL) and the Bukluran ng Manggagawa para sa Pagbabago (BMP), held a one-day general strike September 18.

The strike closed factories throughout Metro Manila and nearby Rizal. Pickets were set up at factory gates and short protest programs were held after which strikers took rides or marched to a demonstration at Makati City, the country's heart of finance and capital.

Some 123,000 workers joined the protests. Operations at the docks were paralysed when 3,000 workers under the banner of the Alyansa ng Manggagawa sa Pantalan (APL - Alliance of Dock Workers) joined the

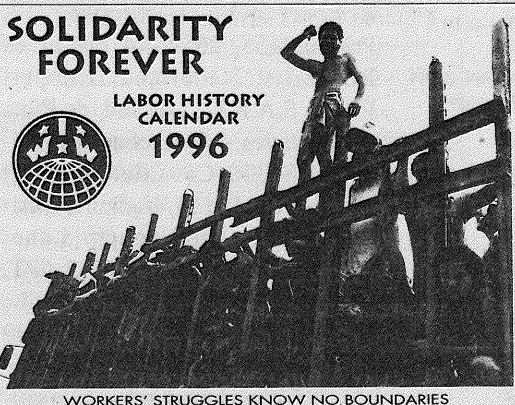
Spanish Shipyard Workers Struggle

The Spanish national shipyard's reconversion plan involves laying-off 5,200 of 10,000 workers. This restructuring affects shipyards in Sestao, Cantabria, Puerto Real, Cadiz and Sevilla. Workers' mobilization was swift. In Cadiz and Sevilla, where shipyards are scheduled to close, the actions have been hard-hitting. Human chains in the sea blocking access to harbors, destruction of company property, barricades at the Junta de Andalucia, blockaded expressways. The most serious incidents took place September 14 and 15 in Cadiz where, after a demonstration, PSOE's (the ruling Spanish "socialist" party) headquarters was wrecked, with streetfights continuing for two nights. Workers of Puerto Real blocked the bridge at Carranza leading to Cadiz with burning barricades and confronted police.

This time the Puerto Real shipyard is less affected. In this shipyard the CNT enjoys great status. In 1987 a reconversion was attempted and the struggle by the CNT accomplished the acceptance of workers' and the population's conditions. There were two months of mobilizations and fights in the streets and from homes against the riot police, on top of whose vans were thrown washer machines and butane gas tanks. Finally the ministry of industry was forced to negotiate with the CNT and the reconversion was stopped.

strike. According to Mel Manaois, chair of the APL, "We were twice stabbed by government when they allowed the prices of goods to rise even as they are undertaking privatisation of the piers which takes away our only means of livelihood." Dock workers pledged to continue their strike against a government order which privatises the piers and will lay off up to 60% of the work force.

The Trade Union Congress and some other unions withdrew shortly before the strike was set to begin, saying they preferred to continue a thus-far fruitless dialogue with the government. "Government treachery against the people's welfare is matched by the modern day Judases of the trade union movement. These labour aristocrats have sold out the strike for a few pieces of political silver," said Ernie Arellano of the NCL.



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Draftees of the World, Unite!

(Insumision: Rebelliousness. Refers to the act of refusing to perform military service. Insumiso: a person who refuses to do military service.)

The volume of news on this subject is such that it would be impossible to make room for all so we publish only those items relating to Zaragoza.

In mid-July Martin Abril was arrested at his work place and imprisoned at Torrero. In Girona on Sept. 9 Ronald, insumiso from CAMPI-Aragon in rebellion several months for not showing up at his trial, was arrested.

Last September Manolo Naudin, Sergio Callau and Javi Clarimon, prisoners in Torrero, broke the penitentiary third degree by not coming to sleep that night at the jail. In solidarity with them and with the slogan "Unhook yourself from the army" several acts took place, among them a March for demilitarization on the 15th. After a protest against nuclear tests at Mururoa and accompanied by hundreds of people they gave themselves up at the Civil Government in front of a large contingent of anti-riot police, where they were detained.

There are in Aragon 34 insumisos in jail. Alex Belasko is in Daroca, there are 4 in 2nd degree and 29 in 3rd degree in Zaragoza. State figures hover around 250 and 300 insumisos in rebellion for not showing up at trials or not showing up to serve sentences.

All summer long a campaign to propagate insumision throughout Europe, primarily composed of antimilitarists from several collectives from Euzkadi, took place.

Protest Violence in Children's Lives

The War Resisters League kicked off a month-long campaign Nov. 24th to protest violence in children's lives. Every year thousands of children are abused by adults or other youths. Millions endure the violence and poverty of economic exploitation. In some neighborhoods, every child has seen at least one person shot, and hears gunfire

every day. In the past fifteen years, 50,000 US children and youths have been killed by people using guns.

"Toys, video games and popular media glorify violence and warfare," the WRL says, "teaching young people social roles which encourage more violence. Each year, the military recruits its members through cultural glorification of militarism and the poverty draft..."

Groups around the US are protesting this violence in a variety of ways, from leafleting outside toy stores encouraging people not to buy violent and sexist toys and video games to organizing Peace Fairs where alternative toys, games and books are sold. The campaign is also taking on an international dimension. In Soweto, South Africa, President Nelson Mandela joined in a toy gun return program for children.

condensed from *El Acratador*

Demand Parole for Peltier

Imprisoned Native American activist and political prisoner Leonard Peltier (see article last issue) returns to the Parole Board for a hearing this month. Peltier's case continues to draw world-wide attention. Like a storm building at sea, public support pounds every higher upon the stone walls of the judicial bureaucracy of the U.S. government. The government has the opportunity to calm the storm by granting Peltier parole and releasing him. While this will hardly constitute justice, it would at least allow Leonard Peltier to walk free once again.

Please send letters supporting parole to: United States Parole Commission, Air World Center, 10920 Ambassador Dr., Suite 220, Kansas City MO 64153. Letters calling for Congressional hearings (Congress seems to be big on probing abuse of federal law enforcement power just now, so the Peltier case should be a natural, right?) should be sent to: Senator Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate, SH-530, Washington DC 20510.

Soccer Solidarity

Highly paid soccer stars playing for Switzerland, Norway and Italy face huge fines for demonstrating at soccer matches against the French nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean. At one match players unveiled a massive banner reading "Chirac Stop it!" and at another players raised their shirts after a goal was scored to reveal Greenpeace tee-shirts. The demonstrations got widespread coverage in the European media and were supported by the large crowds present at the games concerned.

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Detroit Newspaper Strike Continues

Police in the Detroit suburb of Berkley arrested six striking newspaper workers Oct. 29 as the strike against the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News entered its 17th week. Workers were meeting in the Carpenters Local 998 hall to plan their Saturday night activity when a pickup truck full of Vance goons drove into the parking lot with their listening devices. When the spies were asked to leave they refused, instead calling the cops who arrested six newspaper workers on the union's property.

The Vance invasion of Local 998 property marked the second time in a month that goons attacked strikers on public or union property. On Oct. 1 Vance "security guards," dressed in full riot gear, entered the street, swinging their clubs at strikers. Several strikers were arrested on that occasion too.

The Teamsters union has launched a nationwide campaign targeting more than 200 K-Mart stores in 100 cities, urging customers to take their business elsewhere because of the company's refusal to break with the Detroit papers. The Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters distributed 50,000 flyers to fans attending a Philadelphia Eagles football game, advising them of the K-Mart boycott. On the same weekend more than 100,000 fans attending the University of Michigan football game at Ann Arbor saw an advertising banner flown over the stadium urging people to cancel their subscriptions to the scab papers.

AFL Not A Union...

As the IWW noted in 1923 (*Historical Catechism of American Unionism*), the AFL "is merely a political body imposed upon the affiliated international unions, whose function it is to solicit consideration for labor from Congress..." It survives "only by avoiding everything which a labor organization should have attempted. If it had aimed to be a body influencing legislation, to be consistent it should have formed a political party. It has not done so... It has attempted, or pretended, to advance and improve the legal status of labor by making its appeals for consideration upon moral and humanitarian grounds. That it has not been successful as a legislative getting body is testified by the fact that the legal status of labor is on a lower level now than ever before... It is a belly-crawling organization at best, which deludes the workers and holds them helpless before every onslaught of capital."

The pamphlet noted that attempting to reform the AFL from within is "about as possible as irrigating the Sahara desert with a garden hose... on a par with workers who pay for membership in a Chamber of Commerce to use it for the advancement of the proletarian interest."

Sweeney promises to change that — to transform the AFL into a vital organizing force, and to use our force

of numbers to overcome the forces of money and law that are arrayed against the working class. Sweeney's record gives little reason to place much faith in these promises. However, as rebel workers we cannot help but be cheered at the result for two reasons: (1) two parasites who have lived off the labor of our fellow workers for too many decades have been forcibly retired, thereby lightening, if only fractionally, the burden we bear; and (2) the election signals the growing rebelliousness of our fellow workers. The

The Struggle to Control Technology

Rebels Against the Future by Kirkpatrick Sale, Addison Wesley, 1995 \$24.

Kirkpatrick Sale is writing, first of all, about the English Luddites of the early 19th century and, secondly, of their successors today. But the title is a bit misleading. Both groups represent not "rebels against the future (emphasis mine)," but rebels against a future; one for which they never voted, and one where their interests were never seriously considered. As Sale puts it, "They (the Luddites) were rebels against the future that was being assigned to them by the new political economy taking hold in Britain, in which... those who controlled capital were able to do almost anything they wished."

With inflation, brought on by a 20-year war with Napoleon, raging, crops failing, crops failing, wages falling and unions illegal, craftsmen in the heart of England from Manchester to Nottingham to Leeds rose in carefully coordinated assaults on factories and the machines they contained. Faces blackened and armed mostly with their own tools, they struck terror into the hearts of the newly powerful industrial capitalists.

Secrecy and surprise were the Luddite watchwords. Although not every raid succeeded, England was in an uproar from the first attacks in 1811 until the movement petered out in 1815. Many suspected Luddites were arrested, some were hanged, and others transported to penal colonies. The authorities finally succeeded in restoring order only by sending more troops to the heartland than they had sent against Bonaparte in Portugal. But they never succeeded in penetrating the movement, finding its leaders or understanding its structure. Indeed the convulsion had no parallel since the mysterious "Great Society" of the 14th had plunged England into turmoil.

The history of the Luddites was, of course, written by the movement's enemies and "Luddite" entered our language as a synonym for a blind opponent of progress. Sale corrects that picture, helping us to understand that these "machine breakers" were not merely trying to keep their own incomes up, but were also fighting against

AFL piecards did not dump Donahue because they had fundamental differences with him (he was ousted by the very same people who re-elected Kirkland and Donahue for years, and is being replaced by a protege), but rather because they sensed that workers were growing increasingly restive. By shuffling the faces at the top and improving the AFL-CIO's public relations apparatus they hope to head off the dissent and maintain their cozy jobs, far from the shop floors where the rest of us toil.

Perhaps they will succeed. But it seems at least equally likely that the rebellion will continue to grow, that workers will continue to turn to direct action and working-class

the destruction of a way of life that had sustained them and countless other craftsmen for centuries. The skilled worker who had provided "good gods" at a fair price working at his own pace in his own house was being replaced by the wage slave toiling his life away in horribly unhealthy factories for 12 or more hours a day for a pittance that was his only alternative to starvation. In a few decades, the Industrial Revolution reduced a third of England's population to a destitution that saw 57% of the country's children dead before the age of five and a laborer's life expectancy reduced to 18 years.

On the practical level, Sale notes, the Luddite movement was a failure. The new machines proliferated, skilled craftsmen were economically destroyed, and Dickensian misery stalked the land. But the Luddites did succeed in raising the "machinery question" which has never gone away — i.e., what is the cost of "progress," and who shall pay it? Ever since the Luddites took up their hammers, blind faith in the "onward and upward" has been tempered by a realism that sees, as Sale says, that "whatever its presumed benefits... industrial technology comes at a price, and, in the contemporary world, that price is ever rising and ever threatening."

While Sale's history is interesting and enlightening, the most useful part of his book for those who want to understand the present comes in the discussion of the neo-Luddites of our own time. Like Ned Ludd's bands, they too are rebelling against a future they never made, one where the cost-benefit ration of technology is heavily weighted in favor of the already rich and powerful with machines that have left 40% of the work force in disposable jobs, devastated the Earth and reduced much of the Third World from poverty to abject misery.

The neo-Luddites reject the myth that any technology is politically and morally neutral, holding that technology that goes beyond the laboratory into the world is the technology that benefits the ruling class. Therefore, the introduction of any technol-

solidarity to defend our interests and that the piecards will be unable to head off these struggles and divert our energies into their Democratic and Labor Party schemes. The growing dissatisfaction among our fellow workers is the most hopeful sign in the labor movement in many years. Let's all work together to fan the flames of discontent — to locate every spark, every ember of class consciousness and resentment, to breathe life into them, and to build a bonfire of workers struggles that will sweep the field.

KOPPERT strikers need aid...

Koppert workers ask your solidarity in bringing effective pressure to bear against this multi-national exploiter. Following are addresses of Koppert's main offices:

Koppert Biological Systems, 2856 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103; Bees West, Inc., Freedom, CA; 20 miles south of San José, 5 miles north of Watsonville; Koppert B.V., Veilingweg 17, Postbus 155, 2650 Ad Berkel en Rodenrijs, Nederland; Koppert France S.A.R.L., Lot. Ind. du Puits des Gavottes, 147 Avenue des Banquets, 84300 Cavaillon, France; Koppert UK Ltd., 1 Wadhurst Business Park, Faircrouch Lane, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6PT, England, U.K.; Koppert Italia S.r.l., Via Don Giovanni Bosco 0/B, 37060 Lugagnano di Sona (VR) Italy

IWW headquarters can also supply a list of Koppert consignees in the US and Canada.

Reviewed by John Gorman

ogy, the neo-Luddites demand, must be subject to the consent of those who will be most affected by it. If the machines are economically, ecologically or culturally destructive, alternatives must be sought. If none can be found, the old ways continue.

Where Sale becomes uncertain, however, is in his advice on what is to be done to win this veto power. In this sense, he ends

Book Review

where he should begin. Perhaps because most unions have been so slow to recognize this threat, let alone combat it, Sale sees little value in mass action, believing that "the nation state, synergistically intertwined with industrialism, will always come to its defense, making revolt futile and reform ineffectual." Yet many of the instances he cites when the onward rush of "progress" was stopped or diverted, as in France and India, depended on mass protest and mass action, often of the more drastic sort.

Sale seems to prefer a kind of individualized philosophical resistance founded on spiritual traditions of long standing, such as those that have protected the Amish and some Native American tribes from being sucked into a culture of greed. But he does not tell us how the rest of us not so blessed are to acquire the ideological ammunition to fight this war. Books like Sale's are clearly part of that supply, but even the author is far from certain they are enough.

Anarchist Book Fair

Bound Together Books will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with the San Francisco Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, March 30. Admission will be free. The fair will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building near 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Alternative booksellers and magazine publishers will gather to hawk their wares and to network. Speakers will include Robert Anton Wilson, Jello Biafra and Susie Bright. There will also be videos, meetings, food, entertainment, etc.

Bound Together is an all-volunteer, collectively operated anarchist book shop in the heart of San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district, offering an outlet for small press and alternative publishers with a special emphasis on anti-authoritarian materials.

ECOCIDE... continued from page 3

and threatened to shoot their support crew. These are not the actions of a rational, thinking person, but rather of someone who truly believes his livelihood is threatened. We need to continue our efforts to organize the loggers so that this doesn't happen.

Even with a debt for nature swap, Headwaters forest will not be truly saved, because it will then fall under the jurisdiction of the forest service which has all but liquidated Sugarloaf! We must go further; we must shut down the corporations that claim to own the land, and that cannot happen without the consent and willing efforts of the loggers and forest service workers. Now more than ever we need to continue our organizing, efforts and eco-defense.

X344543 FW Steve Ongerth

Afterthought: In fact, there are several other corporation guilty of ecocide, including Bennett Lumber, Georgia-Pacific, Louisiana-Pacific, Interfor, Macmillan-Bloedel, Mitsubishi and Weyerhaeuser. Old growth forests are being destroyed and loggers are being exploited all over the world because of these greedy multinationals.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

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Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average No. Copies for Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies Issue Nearest Filing Date
Total Number Copies Printed	3,500	3,500
Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
Mail Subscription (Paid and Requested)	2,587	2,587
Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	2,587	2,587
Free Distribution (Samples, etc.)...	913	913
Total Distribution	3,400	3,400
Copies Not Distributed:		
Office use, left over, unaccounted...	100	100
Total:	3,500	3,500

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

Workers Attacked With Dogs, Mace

Police attacked 800 to 1,000 construction workers October 26th with dogs, clubs and mace in Braintree, Mass., near Boston. Three workers were arrested on the scene — two on disorderly conduct charges, and a third on a charge of obstructing the capture of a felon (police claim he didn't scramble out of the way quickly enough when they were charging after another picketer) — a fourth was later charged with being insufficiently polite to the police dog that was biting him. He suffered nine puncture wounds. They face a Dec. 1st court hearing.

The workers were demonstrating at a Kmart construction site to protest Kmart's refusal to meet with construction unions over its hiring of a nonunion contractor to build a new Kmart-owned shopping mall. The contractor refuses to hire union workers for the \$32-million project, partially financed with union pension funds.

The protest was organized by the South Shore Building and Construction Trades Council. Council president Thomas Broderick told the *Industrial Worker* that 800 union members were peacefully protesting in front of the Braintree construction site when they were attacked by police (the 1,000 figure comes from a *Boston Globe* account). Local police panicked when they saw hundreds of workers gathering, and called in transit cops and state troopers. The police then attacked, touching off a 20-minute battle which brought traffic to a grinding halt 10 miles away in downtown Boston. Both sides sustained injuries in the battle, and several newly windowless police cruisers retreated.

Local television news claimed that protesters backed-up traffic. However, the pickets weren't actually on the expressway (though they were blocking the intersection in front of the Kmart). Police closed off exit ramps in order to prevent more workers from joining the Kmart picket, thereby causing the disruption that they cited to justify attacking the workers with dogs and mace. The resulting tie-up of rush-hour traffic took several hours to clear.

Broderick said protests at Boston-area Kmart's would continue in light of its national anti-labor track record. "Everything

they do is anti-union," he said, pointing to Kmart's heavy advertising in the struck Detroit newspapers, their attempts to block unionization by Kmart workers and their refusal to use union construction workers.

More than 1,000 workers joined a Nov. 8 protest at a Boston Kmart, joined by striking newspaper workers from Detroit. The workers were surrounded by police as union speakers condemned Kmart's union-busting policies and its financial support to the union-busting Detroit newspapers.

Meanwhile, in Greensboro, North Carolina, workers at a Kmart Distribution Center have been fighting for a union contract for more than two years. Workers at the facility make \$5 an hour less than workers at other Kmart distribution centers in the region, a wage differential the company refuses to address. After months of stonewalling, workers decided to dramatize their grievances by staging a sit-in on the 10th hole of the Kmart-sponsored Greater Greensboro Golf Tournament. This led to a flurry of press coverage denouncing workers for their uncharitable attitude (a portion of the tournament proceeds go to the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has thus far shown little appreciation of the workers' charity in allowing them and their fellow parasites to live off our labor).

The NLRB has filed several unfair labor practice charges against Kmart. In April 1994, Kmart said it was willing to negotiate with the union. Instead they set up an illegal anti-union front group. This is the same Kmart that has been illegally spying on its workers in other areas of the nation.

Ohio Prisoners Protest Inhuman Conditions

Nothing is more dangerous to the Ohio prison industry than intelligent prisoners who insist on standing up for their rights. And so the authorities are labeling letter-writing campaigns and hunger fasts designed to call attention to the inhuman conditions in Ohio prisons "gang activity" and subjecting dissidents to harsh repression.

Dan Cahill, imprisoned at Lebanon Correctional Institute, was charged with "gang activity" for organizing a letter-writing campaign to state legislators to oppose a proposed super-maximum-security prison. The Rules Infraction Board ruled that his actions were "organized" and "disrupted" the legislators, and so were gang activity. To protest the ruling, Cahill began a 60-day hunger strike, ending only after he began to go into convulsions and was visited by a state senator who promised to investigate

the use of false gang activity charges to repress peaceful activities. Why a hunger strike? "It's the only form of protest left."

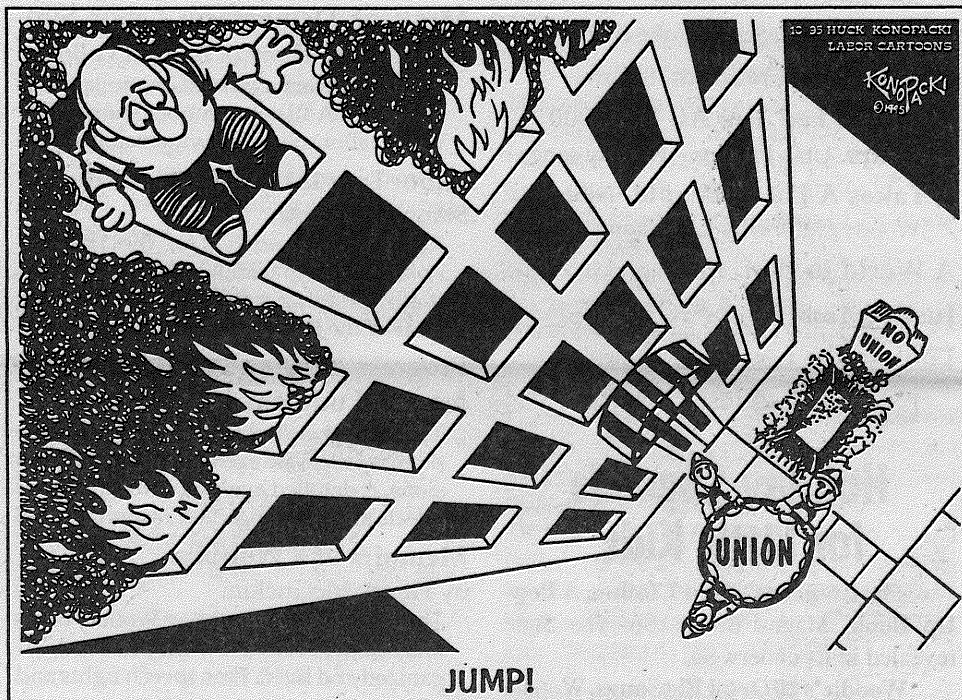
Since his hunger strike, Cahill has been classified a "Security Threat Group," setting him up to serve a longer sentence. Fellow prisoner John Perotti then began a fast to press his demand for transfer to an out-of-state prison where he hopes to be safe from continual harassment by prison authorities. Perotti, who earlier helped organize hundreds of Ohio prisoners to demand IWW representation to bargain over the terms of their coerced prison labor, has filed several cases against prison authorities, winning a brutality suit against Lucasville guards in 1989 for beating him while he was handcuffed and shackled, and then dragging him down prison stairs to a hospital, his head bouncing on each step. Since then, guards have retaliated with a stream of searches, lock-downs, beatings, etc. On Oct. 12 Perotti won \$10,200 in a suit against prison officials for improperly withholding publications and punishing Perotti for writing about prison conditions.

The number of Americans held in prison has grown from under 200,000 in 1971 to more than a million today. As prisoners are subjected to inhuman treatment, Cahill says, "we respond by becoming more violent and dangerous. Our bond with humanity is severed.... A petty thief can come to prison and after service several years walk out of here as a cold-blooded killer." Even setting aside considerations of human solidarity, we all have a material interest in stopping this dehumanizing treatment.

IWW Ballots in Field

Ballots are now in the field, and must be returned to IWW headquarters by December 1st. Only members who have paid dues through September 1995 are eligible to vote.

Candidates who have accepted nomination to the General Executive Board include: Kevin Brandstatter (Swindon, UK), Lenny Flank (Lehigh Valley, PA), Heather Harman (Salt Lake City, UT), Tom Jordan (Burlington, VT), Ingrid Kock (Youngstown, OH), Bill Meyers (Arcata, CA), Penny Pixler (Chicago, IL), Robert Rush (Berkeley, CA), Rochelle Semel (Hartwick, NY), Jeff Stein (Urbana, IL), Maria Tomchick (Seattle, WA), and Pete Wilcox (Honolulu, HI). Fred Chase is running unopposed for re-election as General Secretary-Treasurer.



The Oceans Are Being Overfished

With the increased use of larger and larger factory trawlers the oceans are being overfished. What this means to you is that the industry that you now work in will, like other industries that have done the same, go through a sharp decline, and that means your job.

A good example of what will happen is that which happen to the logging industry the past few years. There the forests were overlogged for quick profit, and when that could not continue any longer workers were thrown out of work and logging communities were devastated. Those who fought over-logging were portrayed as the enemy of the loggers and the media pointed to them as being responsible for the decline in that industry.

It was not the environmentalists who overlogged the forests, nor is it the environmentalists that are overfishing the seas. Place the blame where it belongs. It is the owners who have increased the factory trawler fleet by 458 since 1976. Each trawler can catch up to 550,000 pounds or more a day of fish, and as you know many of those fish are thrown back dead because they are the wrong sex, size or species. What you may not know is that last year factory trawlers threw back over 569 million pounds of dead fish! The owners are raping the oceans as fast as they can for instant maximized profit. All the

Workers of the Fishing Industry Make Those Responsible Pay!

while knowing the harmful effect they are having on the environment and the industry.

Take a look at the new factory ships, they are old freighters converted into floating factories. Ask anyone who works in the shipbuilding and repair industry and they will tell you these ships are not meant to last very long. Who is to blame for the destruction of the fishing industry? The owners are, and it is they who should be held responsible and made to pay.

Working Conditions

Dangerous working conditions, speed-ups, long hours, physical abuse, racial and sexual harassment; these things need not exist. The cramped living quarters that makes overcrowded prison cells look like luxury suites. Or the disrespectful and degrading way the bosses talk to you. All these things can change, if only you and your sisters and fellow workers stand together in solidarity. Your wages and conditions are based upon what the bosses think they can get away with and they can get away with a lot if you do not stand up to them with your demands.

Indian Fishing Treaty Rights

Like environmentalists, the media likes to blame the Original People for the decline

in fish. The National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that 82% of managed fish stocks in the U.S. are fully or over-exploited. Native Americans and their treaty rights are being attacked for two reasons. First, so that the industry can take more fish. Second, to draw public attention away from

those who are really responsible. No amount of cover-ups, misleading newspaper articles or racism should keep workers in the fishing industry and the Original People from being anything but allies. They both depend on the preservation of the fish.

In Solidarity,
Louisiana Jack
Industrial Transportation Project
Industrial Workers of the World
P.O. Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
- ☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
- ☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the *Industrial Worker*